

Major Work Stoppages

Technical Note

Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and include worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppages."

Data for the number of workers involved and days of idleness include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

In the monthly tables, days idle during the reference period for any one stoppage is calculated by adding the number of days lost by each affected worker during the period from the beginning date through the ending date of the stoppage. In addition, days idle is shown as a total for all stoppages in effect during the month. In the historical tables, cumulative figures for days of idleness for the

year or year-to-date are shown for various reference periods. In addition, days idle is shown as a percent of estimated lost working time for all stoppages that occurred during the reference period. Total days idle is the sum of the days idle for all stoppages in effect during the reference period. Estimated working time is computed by multiplying total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period. (Total employment excludes private households, forestry, and fishery employees, and is taken from *Employment and Earnings* published by the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics.) The percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the total days of idleness for all stoppages occurring during the reference period by the estimated working time for all employees in the economy during that period.

Additional information

For more detailed data, write to Work Stoppages, Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Room 4175, Washington, DC 20212-0001.

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Table D-1. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-98¹**

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time lost ²
1947	270	-	1,629	-	25,720	(³)
1948	245	-	1,435	-	26,127	0.22
1949	262	-	2,537	-	43,420	.38
1950	424	-	1,698	-	30,390	.26
1951	415	-	1,462	-	15,070	.12
1952	470	-	2,746	-	48,820	.38
1953	437	-	1,623	-	18,130	.14
1954	265	-	1,075	-	16,630	.13
1955	363	-	2,055	-	21,180	.16
1956	287	-	1,370	-	26,840	.20
1957	279	-	887	-	10,340	.07
1958	332	-	1,587	-	17,900	.13
1959	245	-	1,381	-	60,850	.43
1960	222	-	896	-	13,260	.09
1961	195	-	1,031	-	10,140	.07
1962	211	-	793	-	11,760	.08
1963	181	-	512	-	10,020	.07
1964	246	-	1,183	-	16,220	.11
1965	268	-	999	-	15,140	.10
1966	321	-	1,300	-	16,000	.10
1967	381	-	2,192	-	31,320	.18
1968	392	-	1,855	-	35,367	.20
1969	412	-	1,576	-	29,397	.16
1970	381	-	2,468	-	52,761	.29
1971	298	-	2,516	-	35,538	.19
1972	250	-	975	-	16,764	.09
1973	317	-	1,400	-	16,260	.08
1974	424	-	1,796	-	31,809	.16
1975	235	-	965	-	17,563	.09
1976	231	-	1,519	-	23,962	.12
1977	298	-	1,212	-	21,258	.10
1978	219	-	1,006	-	23,774	.11
1979	235	-	1,021	-	20,409	.09
1980	187	-	795	-	20,844	.09
1981	145	-	729	-	16,908	.07
1982	96	-	656	-	9,061	.04
1983	81	-	909	-	17,461	.08
1984	62	-	376	-	8,499	.04
1985	54	-	324	-	7,079	.03
1986	69	-	533	-	11,861	.05
1987	46	-	174	-	4,481	.02
1988	40	-	118	-	4,381	.02
1989	51	-	452	-	16,996	.07
1990	44	-	185	-	5,926	.02
1991	40	-	392	-	4,584	.02
1992	35	-	364	-	3,989	.01
1993	35	-	182	-	3,981	.01
1994	45	-	322	-	5,020	.02
1995	31	-	192	-	5,771	.02
1996	37	-	273	-	4,889	.02
1997	29	-	339	-	4,497	.01
1997 Through October	28	33	329.7	341.7	4,404.8	.02
1998 Through October ^p	27	27	347.3	347.3	4,770.0	.02

¹ The number of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

² Agricultural and government employees are included in the cal-

ulation of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

³ Data not available.

p = preliminary.

Table D-2. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, August 1998^p**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during August
Peterbilt Motors Company Madison, TN Automobile Workers	5/3/98		1,200	25,200
Bell Atlantic Corporation Interstate Communications Workers	8/9/98	8/11/98	73,000	146,000
Trinity Industries, Inc. Greenville, PA Automobile Workers	8/12/98	8/12/98	1,700	1,700
Consolidated Rail Company Interstate Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees	8/14/98	8/14/98	23,500	23,500
US West Corporation Interstate Communications Workers	8/16/98	8/30/98	34,000	340,000
Southern New England Telecommunications Company Interstate Communications Workers	8/23/98		6,300	37,800
Northwest Airlines Interstate Air Line Pilots Association	8/29/98		6,200	6,200
Stoppages beginning in August 6 Stoppages in effect in August 7			144,700 145,900	580,400

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p=preliminary.

Table D-3. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, September 1998^p**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during September
Peterbilt Motors Company Madison, TN Automobile Workers	5/3/98		1,200	25,200
Southern New England Telecommunications Company Interstate Communications Workers	8/23/98	9/17/98	6,300	75,600
Northwest Airlines Interstate Air Line Pilots Association	8/29/98	9/10/98	33,700	208,400
Continental General Tire Company Charlotte, NC Steelworkers	9/21/98		1,400	11,200
Stoppages beginning in September 1 Stoppages in effect in September 4			1,400 42,600	320,400

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p = preliminary.

Table D-4. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, October 1998^p**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days of idleness during October
Peterbilt Motors Company Madison, TN Automobile Workers	5/3/98		1,200	25,200
Continental General Tire Company Charlotte, NC Steelworkers	9/21/98		1,400	29,400
Kaiser Aluminum Corporation LA, OH, and WA Steelworkers	10/1/98		3,000	63,000
Rheem Manufacturing Company Fort Smith, AR Steelworkers	10/1/98	10/7/98	1,200	6,000
Libbey Incorporated Toledo, OH Glass, Molders, Pottery, and Plastic Workers	10/1/98	10/11/98	1,100	7,700
Fedders Air Conditioning Effingham, IL Boilermakers	10/12/98		1,000	14,000
Anheuser-Busch Incorporated St. Louis, MO Teamsters	10/22/98	10/23/98	1,700	3,400
Stoppages beginning in October 5			8,000	
Stoppages in effect in October 7			10,600	148,700

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
p = preliminary.